



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:**

**Kenneth Shoji**  
Office of Public Affairs  
Ph: 909-864-8933  
Kshoji@sanmanuel-nsn.gov

**SAN MANUEL HOLDS PHILANTHROPIC COMMUNITY LUNCHEON TO  
HONOR NON-PROFITS WITH AWARDS AND DONATIONS**

*Tribe Uses Occasion to Announce \$150,000 Donation to the Japan Natural Disaster Relief*



*The White Rose Singers of Sherman Indian High School Sing Traditional Songs of Praise for the  
Unsung Heroes of the greater Non-profit Community*

**San Manuel Reservation (Highland, Calif.) March 29, 2011**—The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians held its Third Annual Forging Hope Luncheon at the National Orange Show in San Bernardino to honor non-profits and community organizations. In his opening remarks, San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Chairman James C. Ramos announced the Tribe will provide \$100,000 to

the American Red Cross - Inland Empire Chapter and \$50,000 to the International Medical Corps for the ongoing relief efforts following the earthquake and tsunami that devastated Japan this month.

“The people of Santos Manuel feel deep compassion for the people of Japan. While their loss is nearly impossible to measure in human terms, we are confident that the nation of Japan and its people have the courage and resilience to get through this tragedy. We are pleased to join with the rest of the world in offering our assistance and our prayers,” said James Ramos, Chairman, San Manuel Band of Mission Indians

The luncheon brought together non-profit groups from the greater philanthropic community for an awards ceremony at which the Tribe's Yawa' Award was bestowed upon four charities that have made positive and meaningful impacts in the region and across the nation. ***Yawa' is a word and concept in the Tribe's native Serrano Language that calls for one to act on their beliefs.***

The Forging Hope Luncheon honors non-profits who have partnered with San Manuel to make a positive difference in the lives of others. The event is an opportunity for non-profits to receive well deserved recognition for their efforts during this time of great demand and need for their services.

The four recipient charities that embody the concept of Yawa' were each presented with the Yawa' Award for excellence in the program areas of health, education, economic development and special projects: Loma Linda Ronald McDonald House of Loma Linda, Calif. (Health), National Indian Justice Center of Santa Rosa, Calif. (Economic Development), American Indian Graduate Center of Albuquerque (Education), New Mexico and Santa Claus, Inc. of San Bernardino, Calif. (Special Projects.)

In the health program area, the Ronald McDonald House of Loma Linda provides a 'Home Away from Home' for families of critically ill and injured children receiving medical treatment at Loma Linda University Children's Hospital and nearby medical facilities. San Manuel has partnered with Ronald McDonald House for well over a decade.

In the education program area, the American Indian Graduate Center was recognized for its efforts to build, promote and honor self-sustaining American Indian and Alaska Native Communities through education and leadership. The organization provides a variety of services including administrative scholarships, outreach and leadership development to American Indians enrolled in institutions of higher learning.

The National Indian Justice Center (NIJC) was presented the Yawa' Award in the economic development program area. The NIJC designs and conducts legal education, research and technical assistance programs to improve the quality of life and administration of justice throughout tribal communities. San Manuel is a sponsor of the for All My Relations Conference that was established to support the healing process for Indian families whose communities are faced with health and social issues.

In the special projects program area, Santa Claus Inc. was awarded for its 50 plus years of service to families of Riverside and San Bernardino County. Santa Claus, Inc. provides new toys, new clothing and new books for over 17,000 children in the two counties each Christmas.

San Manuel has contributed some \$50 million to charities since 2001. Through partnerships with charitable organizations and community groups San Manuel honors the ancestral Serrano value of sharing resources with others.

###